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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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[Item#1](#)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM: EXPERIENCES OF TWO STATES THAT OFFERED FULL PUBLIC FUNDING FOR POLITICAL CANDIDATES. U.S. Government Accountability Office. May 2010.

The 2000 elections in Maine and Arizona were the first in the nation's history where candidates seeking state legislative seats had the option to fully fund their campaigns with public moneys. In 2003, GAO reviewed the public financing programs in Maine and Arizona and found the programs' goals were to (1) increase electoral competition; (2) increase voter choice; (3) curb increases in campaign costs; (4) reduce interest group influence; and (5) increase voter participation.

Full Text:

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10390.pdf>

[PDF format, 141 pages].

Item#2

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION. Brookings Institution. Allison Anderson. September 16, 2010.

Climate change threatens to undo and even reverse the progress made toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and poses one of the most serious challenges to reducing global poverty for the international community. However, the education sector offers a currently untapped opportunity to combat climate change. The brief reviews the current policies and actions on climate change and the barriers to engaging the education sector in the discussions on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/09_climate_education/09_climate_education.pdf

[PDF format, 16 pages].

Item#3

DEBUNKING THE MYTH OF THE OVERCOMPENSATED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE. Economic Policy Institute. Jeffrey Keefe. September 15, 2010.

The research in this paper investigates whether state and local public employees are overpaid at the expense of taxpayers. Thirty-seven states are struggling with substantial budget deficits. Several governors have identified excessive public employee compensation as a major cause of their states' fiscal duress. The remedies they propose include public employee pay freezes, benefits reductions, privatization, major revisions to the rules of collective bargaining, and constitutional amendments to limit pay increases, each as a necessary antidote to the public employee overpayment malady. The data analysis, however, indicate that public employees, both state and local government, are not overpaid.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://epi.3cdn.net/8808ae41b085032c0b_8um6bh5ty.pdf

[PDF format, 14 pages].

Item#4

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AND THE PURE INFLUENCE OF VOTER REGISTRATION ON TURNOUT.
Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Barry C. Burden and Jacob R. Neiheisel.
January 15, 2010.

Voter registration has long been thought to have a substantial negative effect on voter turnout. First, using a natural experiment in Wisconsin, the authors estimate the pure effect of registration, stripped of the various aspects such as the closing date and residency requirements. Second, the authors conjecture that the administrative capacities of local election officials are an important factor in determining how much registration affects turnout. The report finds that smaller communities with less capacity to implement registration are associated with bigger decreases in turnout. The treatment effect is negligible in the largest municipalities but can total several points in the smallest.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://users.polisci.wisc.edu/gehlbach/documents/bn.pdf>

[PDF format, 37 pages].

Item#5

FROM ELECTIONS TO A NEW GOVERNMENT. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. March 15, 2010.

The formal process that leads from the elections to the formation of a new government is extremely complicated and bound to take time, even without taking into consideration the difficulty of forming viable political alliances.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=40342>

[HTML format with links].

Item#6

INCOME, POVERTY, AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE IN THE UNITED STATES: 2009. U.S. Census Bureau. September 16, 2010.

The data shows that real median household income in the United States in 2009 was \$49,777, not statistically different from the 2008 median. The nation's official poverty rate in 2009 was 14.3 percent, up from 13.2 percent in 2008, the second statistically significant annual increase in the poverty rate since 2004. There were 43.6 million people in poverty in 2009, up from 39.8 million in 2008, the third consecutive annual increase. Meanwhile, the number of people without health insurance coverage rose from 46.3 million in 2008 to 50.7 million in 2009, while the percentage increased from 15.4 percent to 16.7 percent over the same period.

Full Text:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p60-238.pdf>

[PDF format, 88 pages].

Item#7

MIXED VIEWS OF GOP PROPOSALS ON ENTITLEMENTS. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. September 13, 2010.

The public has sharply different reactions to major changes in Social Security and Medicare programs being proposed by some leading Republicans. While a majority favors a proposal to allow some private investments in Social Security, there is considerably less support for the idea of ending Medicare and replacing it with a system of vouchers for purchasing private insurance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://people-press.org/report/653/>

[HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

MONETARY TRANSMISSIONS OF GLOBAL IMBALANCES IN ASIAN COUNTRIES. International Monetary Fund. Woon Gyu Choi and Il Houn Lee. September 2010.

The paper explores the linkages between the global and domestic monetary gaps, and estimates the effects of monetary gaps on output growth, inflation, and net saving rates using panel data for 20 Asian countries for 1980-2008. It finds a significant pass-through of the global monetary gap to domestic monetary gaps, which in turn affect output growth and inflation, in individual emerging market and developing countries in Asia. The authors provide evidence that the global monetary condition is partly responsible for the current account surplus in Asia.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2010/wp10214.pdf>

[PDF format, 27 pages].

Item#9

REGIONAL TRADE BLOCS: THE WAY TO THE FUTURE? Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Alejandro Foxley. September 2010.

With global trade talks stalled and lower demand from major economies that were hit hard by the global economic crisis, regional trade agreements are emerging as a way for middle-income countries to increase trade, spur growth, and lower unemployment rates. In the report, the author analyzes how three regions, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and East Asia, are increasing trade within their borders and building a broader free trade system.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://carnegieendowment.org/files/regional_trade_blocs.pdf

[PDF format, 65 pages].

Item#10

THE ROLE OF THE U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL. Council on Foreign Relations. Carin Zissis and Lauren Vriens. September 16, 2010.

A profile of the UN's senior leadership position--the organization's secretary-general. What tasks are incumbent on the official, and how have past secretary-generals interpreted the role?

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/12348/role_of_the_un_secretarygeneral.html

[HTML format, various paging].